

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are in this application and are presented for consideration. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 4-6, 8-15, 17 and 18. Applicant has also added new claim 19. Applicant also submits replacement sheets of drawings of Figures 1-8.

The drawings have been objected to for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Applicant has attached replacement sheets of drawings of Figures 1-8. It is Applicant's position that the drawings now show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 13-15 have been objected to for minor informalities. Applicant has revised the claims to cure the minor informalities. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for a careful review of the claims.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has amended the claims paying careful attention to the Examiner's remarks. It is Applicant's position that the claims as now presented satisfy the requirements of the statute.

Claims 1-4 and 7-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayashi et al. (US 5,085,006).

The present invention relates to a connection of edges of formed sheets. The connection comprises a first sheet with an edge comprising a plurality of mounts. A second

sheet with an edge is provided. The second sheet comprises a plurality of mounting flanges. The first and second sheet are positioned such that the mounting flanges of the second sheet are in contact with the mounts of the first sheet. A clamping strip is provided as a detachable connection of the sheets at the mounting flanges. A screw connection is used for connecting the clamping strip and the mounts and mounting flanges of the sheets. In the prior art, the door outer sheet and the door inner sheet of a motor vehicle are connected together by spot welding to create a permanent connection. This provided the disadvantage in that the permanent connection can be detached only by destroying or damaging the door outer sheet. The present invention solves the problem of the prior art in that the present invention provides a detachable connection of the edges of sheets in which the tacking technique is no longer used. This advantageously allows the inner door to be separately painted.

Hayashi et al. relates to a weather strip attached to a flange formed along a door frame of a motor vehicle. The weather strip 3 is attached to a flange 1 surrounding the door frame. The flange 1 is formed by jointing edges of an outer panel 11 and an inner panel 12 through a reinforcing plate 13. The weather strip 3 is composed of a trim portion 31 having a U-shaped cross section. The weather strip 3 has a sealing portion 32 formed on an outer side surface of the trim portion 31, which is on the outside of a motor vehicle when the weather strip 3 is attached to the motor vehicle. The sealing portion 32 is compressed by a peripheral edge of a door. Flange retaining lips 33, 34 and 35, 36 respectively project from the opposed inner side surfaces of the trim portion 31. Metal core portion 4 is embedded within the trim portion 31. The flange retaining lip 35 projecting from one of opposed end portion of the trim portion is

provided with a longitudinally extending notch 28 in an inner side of a root portion thereof.

Hayashi et al. fails to suggest or teach a screw connection for connecting a clamping strip and mounts and mounting flanges of sheets. At most, Hayashi et al. teaches a weather strip 3 that is attached to flange 1 by pushing the weather strip 3 on to the flange. The weather strip 3 disclosed in Hayashi et al. is maintained on the flange 1 by pressure contact. Hayashi et al. fails to mention anything at all about a screw connection that connects the clamping strip and the mounts and mounting flanges of the sheets. The present invention takes a different approach. The mounts of the first sheet are aligned with the mounting flanges of the second sheet. A screw connection connects the mounts and the mounting flanges as well as the clamping device. Hayashi et al. fails to teach that any screw connection is used to secure the weather strip to the door frame. As such, the prior art teaches a different approach and fails to disclose the features of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider claim 1 as now presented. Applicant also requests that the Examiner favorably consider claims 7 and 9 as they are based on newly amended claim 1.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8-11 and 14-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Haddock (US 7,013,612 B2).

Haddock discloses a multi-piece clamp for standing seams. A panel assembly 50 is provided, which includes a plurality of panels 54. Each panel 54 includes a base that is disposed between a pair of laterally spaced and longitudinally extending side-edge portions of the panel 54. Each standing seam 62 includes an extension 66 which is vertically disposed relative to the base 58. A clamp 200 is provided with a clamp body 204. The clamp body is defined by a pair

of clamp body ends 208a, 208b that are longitudinally spaced, a pair of laterally spaced clamp body side surfaces 220a, 220b, a clamp body upper surface 216, and a clamp body lower surface 212. The clamp 200 includes a unitary insert 244 that is disposed against a portion of the clamp body 224 with the insert 244 being in axial alignment with the seam fastener hole 284. A seam fastener 276 is used to attach the clamp 200 to the standing seam 62.

Haddock fails to teach or suggest a first sheet with an edge comprising a plurality of mounts arranged thereon as recited in claim 1. At most, Haddock suggests extensions 66 of a standing seam 62 that are in contact with one another. The present invention takes a different approach. The first sheet of the present invention has an edge comprising a plurality of mounts arranged thereon. A second sheet having an edge with a plurality of mounting flanges is arranged on top of the first sheet such that the mounting flanges correspond with the mounts of the first sheet. A clamping strip is provided to advantageously secure the connection between the mounts and mounting flanges. This advantageously allows for a detachable connection without having to use a tacking technique. In contrast, Haddock teaches a standing seam 62 having extensions 66 in contact with one another. Haddock fails to provide a plurality of mounts on one extension to attach to a plurality of mounting flanges on another extension. As such, the prior art takes a different approach and fails to provide the features or advantages of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider claim 1 and all claims that depend thereon.

Haddock fails to teach or suggest a sealing adhesive inserted into an area of the planar contact areas of the first and second sheet as recited in claim 10. As clearly seen in Fig. 7C of

the Haddock disclosure, there is no sealing adhesive inserted in the area of the extensions 66. The sealing adhesive advantageously seals the area of the planar contact areas so that no dirt or any other impurity gets in between the contact area of the two sheets. The Haddock reference fails to suggest such an advantage. As such, the prior art fails to provide the features and advantages of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider claim 10 as now presented and all claims that depend thereon.

Applicant has added new independent claim 19. Claim 19 is similar in scope to claim 10. New claim 19 contains all the advantages as previously discussed in regards to claims 1 and 10. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider new independent claim 19.

The prior art as a whole fails to direct the person of ordinary skill in the art toward the feature of the invention. Further, the invention includes cooperating features which provide particular advantages which are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner favorably consider the amended claims in light of the discussion above.

Further and favorable consideration on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted
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Enclosed: Eight (8) Sheets of Replacement Drawings

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